

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
P.O. BOX 942732
SACRAMENTO, CA 94234-7320
(916) 445-1248



JUL 10 1989

The Honorable Byron D. Sher
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Mr. Sher:

Thank you for your letter of June 12, 1989, concerning the proper disposal of used propane containers. Propane is a flammable gas. If a waste contains enough propane to exhibit the characteristic of ignitability as set forth in Section 66702, Title 22, California Code of Regulations, the waste is a hazardous waste.

The following discussion includes your three specific questions with the Department of Health Services' corresponding answers:

1. Is it illegal to dispose of propane tanks - empty or partially full?

It is not illegal to dispose of empty or partially full propane tanks. Empty propane tanks (i.e., the tank no longer contains propane and is not ignitable) may be managed and disposed as nonhazardous waste. Partially full propane tanks must be managed and disposed as hazardous waste.

2. What is the proper procedure for disposal of these tanks?

The disposal of nonhazardous waste, such as empty propane tanks as defined above, is regulated by the Waste Management Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and local agencies. In the interest of waste reduction and recycling, it would be more beneficial for the consumer to have the tank refilled or sent to a scrap metal recycler rather than disposing of the tank.

As mentioned in No. 1, the partially full tanks must be disposed as hazardous waste. However, there are limited hazardous waste facilities that would be willing to accept this ignitable waste. If the propane is removed from the tank, the tank would be empty and recyclable. Some gas companies are able to recapture the propane from the container, generally a cylinder, before the container is discarded and reuse that propane in other containers. This activity of recapture/reuse

The Honorable Byron D. Sher

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is exempt from hazardous waste regulations pursuant to Section 25143.2 of the California Health and Safety Code.

3. What kind of information is readily available to the consumer advising on proper disposal?

Since there is a possibility that the tanks may be hazardous waste, consumers may want to call the Toxic Substances Control Division of the Department of Health Services at either the Headquarters Office (the telephone number is (916) 324-1826) or the Regional Offices (a regional map is enclosed). Consumers may also want to ask the gas company about proper disposal of propane tanks before purchasing the tanks or when having the tanks refilled.

I appreciate your concern about the proper disposal of used propane containers. If you have any questions, please contact me or you may wish to have your staff contact Alex R. Cunningham, Chief Deputy Director, Toxic Substances Control Division, at (916) 323-2913.

Sincerely,



for

Kenneth W. Kizer, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

Enclosure

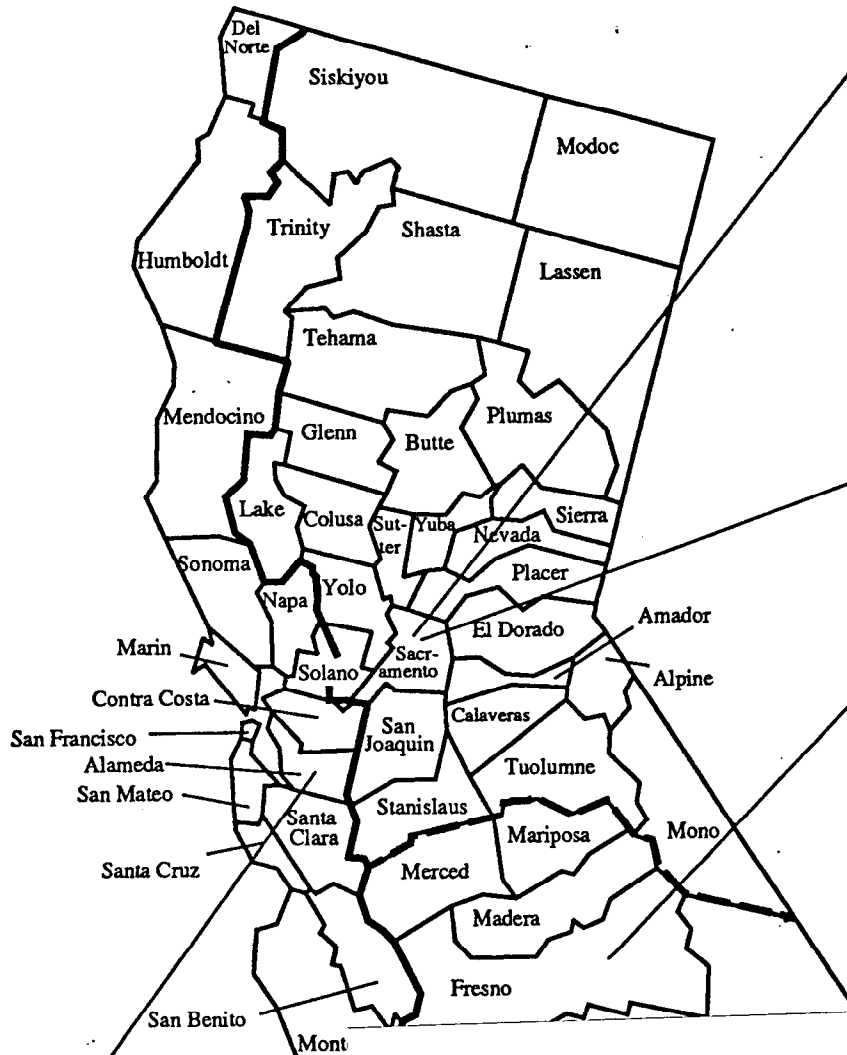
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CCU #891314/8902311

Author: Carol Carollo/2-4226
Alternative Technology Section, TSCD

Deputy Director: C. David Willis/3-9723

California - Department of Health Services - Toxic Substances Control Division



Headquarters

Mail:
714/744 P Street
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 324-1781

Location:
400 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Region 1

4250 Power Inn Road
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 739-3145

Region 1 District Office

(Surveillance and Enforcement
and Site Mitigation)

Fresno District Office

5545 E. Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
(209) 445-5938

Region 2

Mail:

2151 Berkeley Way, Annex 7
Berkeley, CA 94704
(415) 540-2043

Location:

5850 Sheldom Blvd. Suite 390
Emeryville, CA 94608

Region 3

1405 N. San Fernando Blvd.
Suite 300
Burbank, CA 91504
(818) 567-3000

Region 4

245 W. Broadway, Suite 350
Long Beach, CA 90802
(213) 590-4868

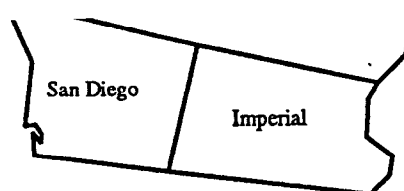
Please note -

misspellings/typos:

Shellmound



Emeryville



8902311
Caryn W.

State of California
Health and Welfare Agency

CORRESPONDENCE
CONTROL SLIP

Department of Health Services

CCU# 8 9 1 3 1 4

FROM: BYRON D. SHER, ASSEMBLYMAN...
CALIF. LEG.

Date of Letter: 06-12-89 Date Assigned: 06-15-89

To: KENNETH KIZER, M.D.

SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF USED PROPANE CONTAINERS

ROUTING:

SIGNATURE:

Check

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. DIR | | Reply Direct |
| 2. TSCD <i>Jim Allen</i> | ✓ | Prepare for Directors Signature |
| 3. | | Prepare for Signature |
| 4. | | Suggested Reply for Signature |
| 5. | | No Response Necessary |

Return to Correspondence Control Unit.

OB9/340 Phone 2-2989

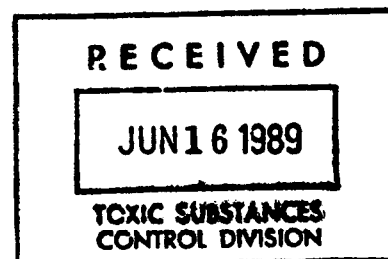
HAS 5 (01/88)

Due Date: 07 - 07 - '89

Completion Date: ____ - ____ - ____

Signed by:

Author:



CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
(916) 445-7632

DISTRICT OFFICE
785 CASTRO STREET
SUITE C
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94041
(415) 961-6031

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
BETSY BLAIS SHOTWELL

Assembly California Legislature

BYRON D. SHER

ASSEMBLYMAN, TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN
NATURAL RESOURCES

MEMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY &
TOXIC MATERIALS
GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY &
CONSUMER PROTECTION
FINANCE & INSURANCE
REVENUE & TAXATION

JOINT COMMITTEES

ARTS
PRISON CONSTRUCTION &
OPERATIONS
ENERGY REGULATION &
THE ENVIRONMENT

June 12, 1989

Kenneth Kizer, Director
Department of Health Services
714/744 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ken:

A constituent has contacted me regarding the proper disposal of used propane containers. I would appreciate it if you would have one of your staff members provide me with information on current state law and regulations relating to disposal of propane tanks.

Specifically, is it illegal to dispose of propane tanks -- empty or partially full? What is the proper procedure for disposal of these tanks? What kind of information is readily available to the consumer advising on proper disposal?

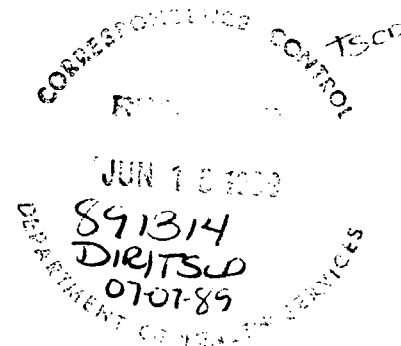
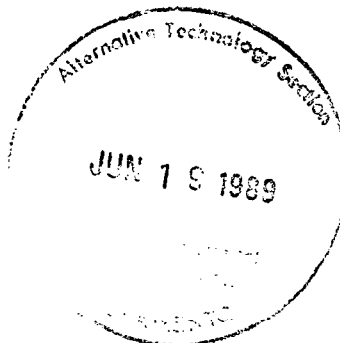
Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Janice Hopcraft in my Capitol office at 445-7632.

Sincerely,



BYRON D. SHER, Assemblyman
21st District

BDS:jmh



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